

## **Grade 4 - Informational**

### **Simple Weaving Project**

Pioneers often wove cloth to make clothing and other household goods. Weaving cloth was a long and difficult job. First, wool was spun into yarn. Then, plants were used to make dye in different colors. Next, pioneers dyed the yarn and wove it into cloth.

Sometimes, children enjoyed watching the process of weaving. They would ask for pieces of yarn so that they could make something small by weaving. Just like pioneer children, you can gain a better understanding of the weaving process by making a simple paper weave.

#### **Materials:**

- 9 x 12-inch construction paper
- pencil
- ruler
- scissors
- one-by-twelve-inch precut pieces of colored construction paper
- craft glue

#### **Directions:**

1. Choose a 9 x 12-inch piece of construction paper in a color you like.
2. Fold the piece of construction paper in half, with the longer edges of the paper together.
3. Using a ruler and pencil, draw a line one inch from the edge of the paper on the side opposite from the fold.
4. Beginning on the folded edge of your paper, make a cut to the line drawn on the opposite side. The cut does not need to be a straight line. A curvy line will create an interesting design.
5. Continue to make cuts from the fold to the line drawn on the opposite side. Leave about a one-inch space between each cut line.
6. When there is no longer any space to cut another line, unfold the paper.

7. Choose several one-by-twelve-inch precut pieces of construction paper. These pieces should be a different color than the large piece of construction paper you are using.
8. Weave one of the narrow pieces over and then under the cuts you made in the large piece of construction paper. Push the woven piece to the top of the large piece of construction paper.
9. Take another narrow piece of construction paper. It can be a different color than used in the previous step. This time go under and then over the cuts that were made in the large piece of construction paper. Push this piece right next to the first woven piece so they are touching without a space in between.
10. Repeat steps 8 and 9 with a variety of different colors until there is no longer room for one of the narrow pieces of paper.
11. If any of the narrow pieces of construction paper extend beyond the edge of the larger paper, use scissors to trim them even with the edge.
12. Put a dot of craft glue on each end of the narrow pieces of construction paper to glue them to the larger piece.

Now that you have finished your paper weaving project, you have an idea of what pioneers did on a regular basis. You can add designs to your project and use it to decorate your home or classroom.

